



JUNE 28, 1963



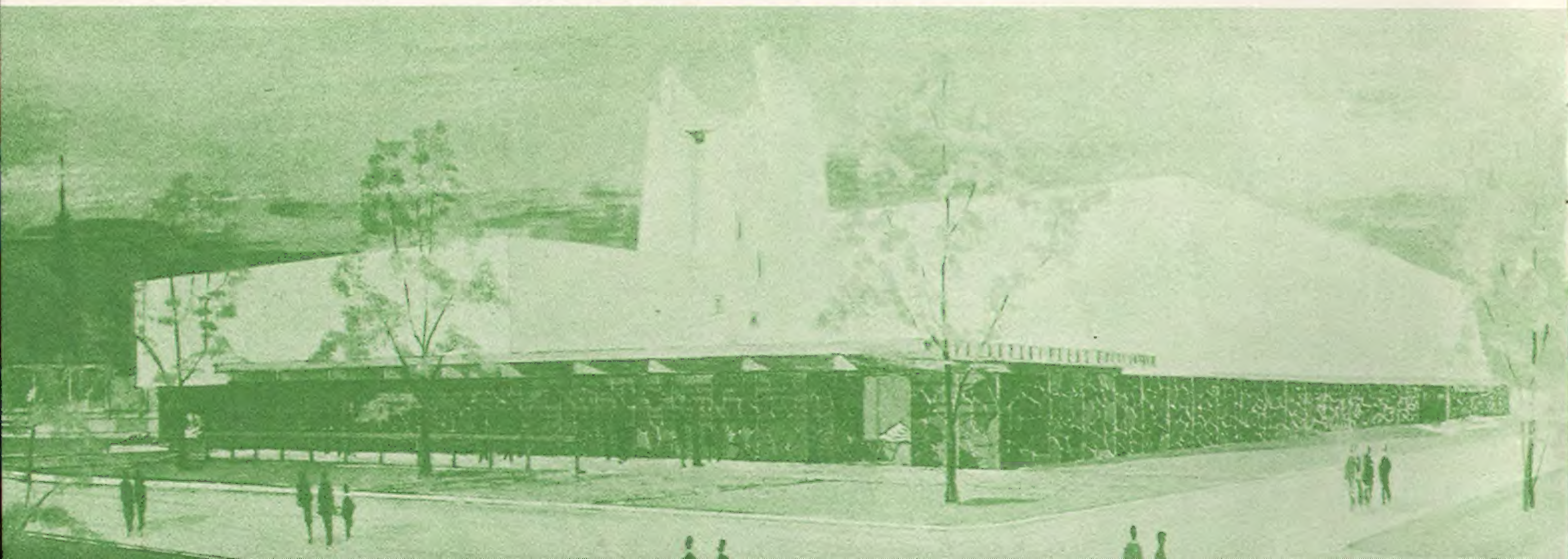
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COMMEMORATION
STONE
CEREMONY

AT THE NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR 1964-1965

*The Pavilion of Ireland will be enclosed by a wall faced with
slabs of native Irish stone. Ireland's historical, cultural
and economic aspects will be featured in the exhibit.*

*Mr. Andrew Devane, of Robinson, Keefe & Devane of Dublin,
is the architect; Mr. George Nelson is architect and designer
in New York; and James King and Son, Inc. are contractors.*



Excerpts from transcription of remarks made by Irish and World's Fair officials at the commemoration stone ceremony for the Pavilion of Ireland at the New York World's Fair, June 28, 1963.

AMBASSADOR RICHARD C. PATTERSON, JR. [Chief of Protocol]: Mr. Consul General, President Moses, Governor Poletti, distinguished guests, and ladies and gentlemen. A most happy and auspicious occasion brings us together on this site, in the city where the President of Ireland was born. We are here to lay the commemoration stone of the Irish Pavilion.

I have great pleasure in presenting our first speaker, The Honorable Charles Poletti, former governor of the State of New York, now vice president for International Affairs of the World's Fair.

GOVERNOR POLETTI: Ambassador Patterson, Consul General O'Brien, President Moses, Douglas Beaton, Father O'Callaghan and friends. We are happy to be here on this auspicious day. We are glad that the Irish Pavilion is going to emphasize the connection between Ireland and the United States, and I know that the Irish Pavilion is going to be very popular. We look forward to the National Day that the Irish have picked; you

know, here at the World's Fair we're going to have one day that's going to be devoted exclusively to each international participant, and Ireland has selected May 16. They couldn't pick St. Patrick's Day, because we don't open until April 22; so they picked May 16. All of you that have Irish in you know that May 16 is the day that commemorates St. Brendan the Navigator. So here we'll be on May 16, celebrating St. Brendan's Day. We are all happy that we're going to have this Irish Pavilion.

In closing, I want to say that we of the World's Fair are most grateful to all the people who have worked so hard in obtaining an Irish Pavilion at the World's Fair. I'm thinking of people who are connected with the Fair, who went over to Ireland on our delegation — Tom Deegan and others, and Sean Keating, who felt so strongly that Ireland had to be here that he went over there not once, but twice. Thank you very much.

AMBASSADOR PATTERSON: Thank you very much, Governor Poletti. Before introducing the next speaker, I'd like to introduce the man the governor just mentioned, who's done so much to help bring Ireland into this Fair, a great New Yorker, Sean Keating. He's the Regional Director for all Post Offices in New York State, and is always a great help to Mr. Moses and the rest of us. Sean, come up and let them take a look at you.

MR. SEAN KEATING: Ambassador Patterson, Commissioner Moses, Governor Poletti, Mr. O'Brien, Father O'Callaghan, distinguished guests. This is really a sur-



The Honorable John O'Brien, Consul General of Ireland, laying the commemoration stone for the Pavilion of Ireland; looking on are: (left to right) Mr. Robert Moses, president of the Fair; Governor Charles Poletti, vice president in charge of the International Division of the Fair; and Mr. Sean Keating, Regional Director, U. S. Post Office Department.

prise, but a Cork man in front of a microphone is always an oratorical threat. I had no expectation of having to say anything. I just want to say thanks to Commissioner Moses and Governor Poletti for giving me the opportunity to go to Ireland to try and induce the Irish Government to participate in the Fair. I got wonderful cooperation from the Irish Government. I hope that all the promises I made and all the inducements I offered will bear fruit. And I am sure the Irish Government's building will be a credit to the Irish nation, and a credit to the Fair Corporation. Thank you very much.

AMBASSADOR PATTERSON: Now I'd like to call on the Very Reverend Donal O'Callaghan, Prior of the Carmelite Order in New York.

THE VERY REVEREND DONAL O'CALLAGHAN: Commissioner Patterson, Mr. Moses, Mr. Poletti, Mr. Keating, Your Excellency, The Consul General of Ireland, and friends of Ireland. We are all very happy to be here today, to see Ireland participating in the World's Fair. We are very happy for many reasons, and happy because an Irish nation is here to take its place among the other nations in this great demonstration. It would be our desire to greet New York as an unpartitioned Irish nation, but in good time this will come. America has been good to our people; and we, thanks be to God, have been loyal to America. May that link which



has always bound the ancestral land of our fathers with America live on; may the two nations, and all of the other nations, stand together for the things that we believe in, the things that made America great. Our prayer is the prayer of Lincoln, not only for America or for Ireland, but for all free peoples, that these nations that believe as we do, under God, may not perish from the face of the earth.

AMBASSADOR PATTERSON: Our next speaker is a Yale man, he's an Oxford man, and he's a Columbia man. He received high honors from all three colleges. He has lectured in many, many universities, and he has had a brilliant career in public service. Ladies, and gentlemen, I have the high honor to present The Honorable Robert Moses, president of the New York World's Fair.

MR. ROBERT MOSES: John O'Brien and friends. I am happy to be here with two or three other extinct volcanoes. There's Charlie Poletti, who's been a governor of New York, military governor of Rome and a Supreme Court judge, and who got two degrees at Harvard; and Dick Patterson who served abroad in a number of American Embassies.

In any event, it makes me think a little bit about Governor Smith, who was my Gamaliel. I grew up at his knee, so to speak. The Governor told me that when he was a small boy downtown at St. James Parish, there was



*The Honorable John O'Brien presenting to
Mr. Robert Moses
a claret decanter of Waterford cut glass.*



a parish priest there who wanted to make an orator out of him. He figured that if he was going into public life, he'd better study oratory and listen to the principal speakers of the time. So he listened to all of them. One of the great orators of the time, greatly admired by Governor Smith, was Bert Cochran, who was a congressman and a distinguished lawyer; and Smith learned many of his orations by heart.

I remember there was a series of talks that Bert Cochran gave called "Who is the Happy Man?" In one of them he asked whether the public servant was a happy man, and he, Bert Cochran, said: "Far from it. When the scepter of power drops from his nerveless fingers, he is condemned to an isolation the more unbearable because of the adulation to which he has become accustomed."

Now that's what happened to us — Charlie, Dick and me. We don't get so much adulation any more, but we are the happy men, and certainly we are happy on this occasion. We are happy to have Ireland here, and I'm particularly happy to learn that the Irish exhibit is going to deal not only with the glories of the Irish people in the past, not only with culture and the language — but also will describe today and tomorrow — what Ireland is doing and what it is aiming for.

That's what we want, because when you come here, you are in competition with all the countries of the world. We like to call it a kind of Olympics — the best man wins. We want people to come in and show everything

they've got. That's what the Irish are going to do, and they couldn't be more welcome. I hope that John O'Brien and his associates will call upon us for anything that we can do.

AMBASSADOR PATTERSON: Thank you, President Moses. The last speaker is the distinguished Consul General from Ireland to New York, The Honorable John O'Brien.

THE HONORABLE JOHN O'BRIEN, CONSUL GENERAL OF IRELAND: Thank you, Ambassador Patterson, and thank you also Governor Poletti, for your very kind remarks. Honorable Robert Moses, distinguished guests, colleagues and fellow countrymen. I am sure you will agree with me that to an Irish representative, more than to most, the very pleasant task of officiating at the laying of a commemoration stone of his national pavilion at the New York World's Fair seems quite natural and fitting.

In view of the unique position occupied by our countrymen in the life of this great City and State of New York, and throughout the United States, it seems hardly necessary to say that we are all extremely proud of the outstanding contributions which our Irish emigrants and their descendants have made to the development of this great country of yours over the years. And as has been remarked twice already, a particularly felicitous event is taking place today in the capital city of Ireland. President John Fitzgerald Kennedy is at this moment the guest of

the President of Ireland, at Arus an Uachtarain which is the President's residence in Dublin — the state dinner is timed for 8:30 and as Dublin is five hours ahead of New York time, the distinguished guests should just about now be seated.

It was also a proud occasion for the Irish people when President Kennedy, who was greeted by President de Valera yesterday as the "distinguished scion of our race who has won first place amongst his fellow countrymen," addressed both Houses of the Irish Parliament earlier today and later received the Freedom of the City of Dublin, as well as honorary degrees from the National University of Ireland and from Trinity College, Dublin.

With regard to our exhibit at the Fair, while the building itself will be comparatively unpretentious, our aim is that the overall presentation will give a balanced picture of the cultural, historical and economic features of the country, and of progress and achievements in the agricultural and industrial spheres in modern Ireland. In view of the rather false picture of our country which is, unfortunately, too often projected abroad, it is hoped that the Irish display will help in presenting a true image of a people whose traditions extend deep into the past, but who are at the same time facing with confidence and self-assurance the challenge of the modern world.

I should like to express to the president of the Fair, The Honorable Robert Moses, to Governor Poletti, to Mr. Beaton and to their colleagues on the World's Fair staff,

our deep appreciation of the courtesy and cooperation which they have always shown in our dealings with them. Speaking of your distinguished president, Robert Moses, I might mention at this stage that I was most pleasantly surprised in the course of a recent conversation with him, to discover that, despite the multifarious activities which have engaged his attention over many years of dynamic public service, he still managed to find time to study some of the writings of our greatest Irish authors and playwrights, whose works he has analyzed and reviewed from time to time. I am delighted to be able to reveal to you this intriguing facet of his many-sided activities, and while it augurs well for our continued cooperation in problems relating to the Fair, we shall, of course, also have to be very careful to insure that our exhibit will be particularly well-presented, subject as it will be to the scrutiny of a president who knows much more about Ireland than any of us had suspected.

Finally I have the privilege of reading to you the following message from The Honorable John Lynch, Minister for Industry and Commerce in Ireland: "I am sure that the Government's decision to present an exhibit at the Fair will be welcomed by the large population in New York and in the United States as a whole. Ireland's display will convey to those people in America who are not familiar with our country some of the traditions and achievements of which we are justifiably proud. I wish the Irish exhibit and the Fair every success."

THE PAVILION OF IRELAND

HON. JOHN M. LYNCH, *Minister for Industry and Commerce*

World's Fair Committee for the Pavilion of Ireland

HON. JOHN O'BRIEN, *Consul General of Ireland*

THE PAVILION OF IRELAND

will occupy
a 12,203 sq. ft. site
in the
International
Area.



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